In the Specification

Page 6, lines 9 to 25:-

Referring now to figure 3, this shows in schematic form the construction of the subscriber installation and illustrates in particular the upstream transmission process. For clarity, the downstream transmission path has been omitted from figure 3. As shown in figure 3, the subscriber installation incorporates a voice terminal 21 and a data terminal 22. A video terminal 23(not shown) may also be provided. Upstream data traffic from the data terminal 22 is in the form of IP packets which will, in general, be of variable length and each incorporating a header containing information relating to the routing of the packet and, optionally, priority information. Upstream traffic from the voice terminal 21 is digitised and packetised into fixed length IP packets via voice encoding and packetising device 25. The analogue voice signal from the voice terminal is sampled and each sample is encoded as a digital code. The voice encoding device 25 uses standard telephony pulse code modulation (64 kbit/s) and generates fixed length IP packets each incorporating a payload comprising the digitised voice and a header containing priority and destination information. The construction of voice encoding and packetising equipment will be well understood by those skilled in the art.

A1

Page 7, lines 8 to 17:-

At the access multiplexer ~~13~~15, the data and voice ATM cells received over the subscriber loop are de-multiplexed and are re-assembled into respective IP packets for transport over a high speed link to the IP network ~~15~~13, the header information being employed for the routing of each packet across the IP network. ~~It~~ It will be understood that the high speed link can carry traffic from all the line cards in the access multiplexer.

A2

In an alternative embodiment, the ATM data and voice cell streams are not re-assembled at the access multiplexer 13, but are launched directly into an ATM network ~~32~~20.